

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03494 100820Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /027 W

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R 100800Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1631

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CZ JA

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO JAPAN

1. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) JAPANESE COUNSELOR APPROACHED US DECEMBER 8 SEEKING ANY INFORMATION WE COULD PROVIDE ON KAREL HOUSKA, FOR WHOM GOC HAS REQUESTED AGREEMENT AS NEXT AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN. (END CONFIDENTIAL).

2. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) FOLLOWING IS COMPOSITE OF INFORMATION ON
ON HOUSKA SUPPLIED JAPANESE BY GOC AND THAT IN OUR FILES. HOUSKA WAS BORN IN 1922. AFTER GRADUATION FROM UNIVERSITY HE WORKED IN CZECHOSLOVAK STATE BANK UNTIL 1960, WHEN HE ENTERED MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND SERVED AS HEAD OF HARD (OR FOREIGN) CURRENCY DEPARTMENT. IN 1971 HE TRANSFERRED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHERE HE HAS BEEN HEAD OF ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN. SPEAKS ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, GERMAN, FRENCH AND SPANISH.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT FUNCTIONS OF MFA ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT ARE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IT MAY EXIST PRIMARILY TO COORDINATE POLICY ASPECTS OF GOC FOREIGN TRADE AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITY. OPERATIONAL SIDE OF MFA'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES ARE HANDLED BY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT.

4. IT APPEARS TO US THAT HOUSKA IS TECHNOCRAT AND THAT HIS APPOINTMENT INDICATES GOC EXPECTS NO GREAT CHANGE IN CURRENT LEVEL OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.
(END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE03494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-0490
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761254/aaaabuhz.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO JAPAN
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, JA, US, (HOUSKA, KAREL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006